

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117336

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MEXICO DATED MAY 19, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC, LIMA, ALL USCONSULS MEXICO IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 07881

DEPARTMENT FOR ERNST (S/NM) AND LUERS (ARA); DEA FOR
BENSINGER; WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR BOURNE
LIMA FOR MATHEA FALCO

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: VISIT OF BOURNE AND FALCO

1. SUMMARY: DR. PETER BOURNE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT; MS. MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISOR FOR NAR-
COTICS MATTERS; AND S/NM LIAISON OFFICER RICHARD DUGSTAD
CONCLUDED A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT CONSULTING WITH EMBASSY
AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE PROGRESS OF
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BILATERAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

2. AT A WORKING LUNCH, HOSTED BY THE CHARGUON MAY 16
FOR THE U.S. VISITORS, ATTORNEY GENERAL OSCAR FLORES
(AG) AND HIS SENIOR ADVISORS REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF
THE MEXICAN ERADICATION EFFORTS SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION ON DECEMBER 1, 1976. ALTHOUGH HE IS

PLEASED WITH WHAT HE TERMS 95 PERCENT SUCCESS IN THE ERADICATION EFFORTS, THE AG BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT SUCCESS IN ERADICATION, ALTHOUGH THIS GOAL MAY REQUIRE A COMBINATION OF ENFORCEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE EXPLAINED THE CHARGE PLACED UPON HIM BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO EXPAND THE GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS AND EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT IN-DEPTH AND LONG-TERM PLANNING EXERCISES WITH THE EMBASSY ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE AG SAID HE WAS SENDING HIS CHIEF DEPUTY FOR THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT, DEPUTY AG SAMUEL ALBA-LEYVA, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON BILATERAL COMMISSION TALKS ON MAY 26. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE STRONGLY BELIEVES SUBSTANTIVE ON-GOING NARCOTICS DISCUSSIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND HIS OFFICE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE BILATERAL COMMISSION TALKS WOULD STRESS THE NEED FOR BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE TO PLACE PRIORITY EMPHASIS ON THE COMMON PROBLEM OF ILLICIT DRUG CONTROL, WITHOUT CREATING STILL MORE COORDINATING MECHANICS. (COMMENT: BOURNE, FALCO, AND CHARGE THOMPSON, EACH OF WHOM HAD ARRIVED AT IDENTICAL CONCLUSION SEPARATELY, DEVOTED PART OF THEIR PRE-LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS ATTEMPTING TO DEVISE TALKING POINTS TO LEAD AG FLORES TO THIS VIEW. ALL LUNCHEON PARTICIPANTS WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT THE UNANIMITY ON NEED TO AVOID INTRODUCING UNNECESSARY COMPLICATIONS TO A PROGRAM WHICH IS FULLY COORDINATED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH THE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION LEVELS.)

4. THE AG STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING POSITIVE ALTERNATE INCOME PROGRAMS IN THE POPPY GROWING REGIONS. HE HAS AUTHORIZED A CONSULTANT STUDY ON THE SUBJECT AND EXPECTS TO HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN SIX MONTHS. MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPLORING PROCEEDING WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIMBER MILLS IN SINALOA AS A VIABLE FIRST STEP IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. DR. BOURNE SUGGESTED THAT ASSISTANCE OF UNFDAC MIGHT BE SOUGHT FOR THIS EFFORT. THE AG RESPONDED THAT LATER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MEXICAN STUDY GROUPS AND OUTSIDE EXPERTS MIGHT BE USEFUL. HE EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH THE EMBASSY IN APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS.

5. THE AG EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE IN THE PROGRAM AND TERMED THE OVERALL STRUGGLE TO BE A JOINT U.S.-MEXICAN EFFORT. HE COMMENTED THAT THE FORM

AND SPIRIT IN WHICH THE ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN IS FULLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE SIZE. HE EXPLAINED THE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND HIS MINISTRY, AND SUMMARIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NARCOTICS EFFORT AS RELATED TO HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, SAYING THAT SEVEN PER CENT OF HIS FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ARE IN THE NARCOTICS AREA WHILE IT USES SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE MINISTRY. THE DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT TO MEET LATER IN THE YEAR FOR FURTHER TALKS.

6. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY BOURNE AND FALCO, AG SAID HE KNEW OF NO RPT NO DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON DRUG USERS BECAUSE OF HERBICIDES USED IN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. HE HAD BEEN TOLD DURING RECENT BORDER ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO OF ONE ISOLATED REPORT THAT

A PARTICULAR BATCH OF MEXICAN HEROIN AP-
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PEARED TO CAUSE A SKIN RASH, BUT NOTED THAT WHETHER RASH WAS CAUSED BY HERBICIDE OR BY IMPURITIES INTRODUCED BY HEROIN PROCESSING LABORATORY COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. DEPUTY AG ALBA-LEYVA, WHO HAS HIMSELF SUPERVISED HERBICIDE TESTS, DISCOUNTED INCIDENCE OF SIDE EFFECTS FROM SPRAYED MARIJUANA, SAYING THAT HERBICIDE CAUSES MARIJUANA TO PULVERIZE, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO PACK AND VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MARKET. (COMMENT: SEE ALSO MEXICO 5930 WHICH REPORTS THAT COMBUSTION TEMPERATURE REQUIRED TO SMOKE MARIJUANA SHOULD BREAKDOWN ANY HERBICIDE TRACES WHICH MAY BE PRESENT. FURTHER, DEA HERE HAS NO RPT NO REPORTS FROM DEA DOMESTIC OFFICES OF SEIZURES INVOLVING DRUGS CONTAMINATED BY HERBICIDE.)

7. A MEETING WAS ALSO HELD MAY 16 WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GENERAL FELIX GALVAN-LOPEZ WHO DESCRIBED THE CURRENT SPECIAL MILITARY EXERCISES THAT SUPPLEMENT THE AG'S ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION EFFORTS. BOTH VISITORS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE DEGREE OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION THAT IS EVIDENT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THIS DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM.

8. ON MAY 17, THE WASHINGTON VISITORS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS TOURED THE ERADICATION ZONE IN OAXACA, VIEWED THE AG'S FORWARD BASE OPERATION AND CONSULTED WITH

SENIOR MILITARY AND AG PERSONNEL. A PRESS STATEMENT
DESCRIBING THE POSITIVE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MEXICAN
NARCOTICS PROGRAM BY DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO WAS
TRANSMITTED IN MEXICO 7786. THOMPSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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